

A.C.W. MONIES — Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Subscriptions for Newsette or ACWC News, forfeitures from Special Days, Payments or Donations, also changes of address for Newsette subscribers, should **ALL** be sent to the **TREASURER**:

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(Tel: 9428.2384)

CHEQUES to be made payable to '**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**' and **NOT** to any individual person.

FEES from **AFFILIATED GROUPS** are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$15.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$10.00 per annum
Organisations eg YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade :	\$10.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st June: \$10.00 per annum (includes subscription to Newsette)

NEWSETTE is the official journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women, which is published four times a year on 1st February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00 (payable to Treasurer as above).

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the **EDITOR**: Mrs Beryl McLaughlin
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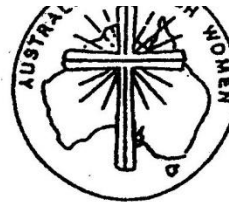
A GRANDMOTHER'S PRAYER.....

*Let me give my grandchild gifts,
Not just toys, but other things -
Like treasured dreams and memories
That give a child both roots and wings.*

*Let me help with little things,
To teach someone to tie a shoe,
To answer funny questions now
And always know just what to do.*

*Let me show that what is old
A child may find completely new.
And know what once delighted me
Makes my grandchild happy too.*

*Let me use this special time,
Feeling blessed by circumstance;
For sometimes being a grandma is
A mother's happy second chance.*



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW UNIT

ACW seeks:

- ... to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ... to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Peg Blake Tel: (02) 9524.9397

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MAY
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Loving greetings to you all!

It's hard to believe that my term of office is coming to an end and I will soon be "handing over the reins" to the Rev. Elizabeth Walker. I know that as your new President, with God's guidance, she will wisely lead ACW in NSW into the year 2000. As you have done for me, I know you will encourage and support Elizabeth with your prayers and love at all times.

As I relinquish the office of State President after two very happy years, I thank Almighty God for granting me this wonderful experience. It has been a great joy sharing in fellowship with so many of you. It was an honour and privilege to have been able to serve Him in this way, in meeting with members of other denominations and acknowledging the bond of love and faith which binds us together as one in Christ Jesus. I have appreciated the courtesy and kindness extended to me wherever I went. Our lives have been enriched by the interaction of our enjoyable Executive and Council meetings. I have been upheld by your love, care and concern, the sharing of joys and sorrows, hopes and plans for the future. Thank you all. I can truly say that I am conscious of the Lord's

nearness in everything I do, for it has not been in my own strength that I have coped with the last two years! (Philippians 4:13)

During this 60th Anniversary year of NSW State Unit there will be many opportunities to look back with thanks to Almighty God. Begun by a handful of women, in a time of unrest, even with the threat of a World War, our Unit's Anniversary is surely proof of how faith and a vision can grow. In our time, with so much evidence of violence and crime in an increasingly Christ-less society, let us constantly give the power of prayer our wholehearted support. As we face whatever changes may come in our lives, we have that wonderful assurance that Jesus Christ never changes. The Past has gone, the Present is ours to use and the Future is securely in God's care. How will we best use the days to come, that they will be wisely and well spent? We can pray for strength and wisdom that God will lead us in His Way. Then we may rest assured that our future hopes and plans will be held securely in His care.

May God bless every one of you as you walk in the Steps of the Master, putting your trust in Him and using your time and talents for His glory as you tell of God's love in your life and spread the Good News of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life through our Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said: "And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples." (John 13:34,35)

With my love and prayers always, Peg Blake.

ANNUAL DEDICATION SERVICE and INSTALLATION OF

REV ELIZABETH WALKER as STATE PRESIDENT

will be held at ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

on MONDAY, MAY 11, 1998, commencing 10.30 am.

The Church is in Lord Street, very close to the Station, on the opposite side of railway line from Pacific H'way.

A Light Lunch will follow the Service - Donation \$4.00

PLEASE NOTE time of Service is 10.30 am - this is a correction from incorrect time given in February Newsette.

ACW NSW MISSION STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - One God, Three in One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

THE AIMS of ACW NSW State Unit are:

- To UNITE Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- To PROMOTE co-operation and understanding between men and women in the Church, family and society;
- To HELP Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church;
- To PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together;
- To ENCOURAGE fellowship and service across national and international boundaries.

V A L E - BETH FINLAY and EDNA BAKER.

Our dear friend, Beth, whom many of us have been supporting with our prayers in recent months, passed away on March 27. Twelve ACW members attended the Memorial Service for her at her beloved Scots Church, and shared with a large congregation in hearing the many tributes paid to Beth's life of faith and service, through many other avenues apart from her involvement with ACW for so many years.

Another who has gone to be with her Lord is Lt.Col. Edna Baker. Edna was deeply involved for many years with ACW NSW of which she was a Past President and a Life Member.

We honour the memory of both of these our sisters who have gone ahead, and rejoice to know that they have heard their Lord's "Well done, good and faithful servant" and have entered into His joy.

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them." (Rev 13:14)

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY....DIAMOND JUBILEE ECUMENICAL LUNCHEON

To mark the 60th Anniversary of our NSW State Unit of ACW a great Birthday Party is being planned for us all to share.

This will be held on MONDAY, JULY 20, 1998, commencing at 11 a.m. in the Salvation Army Congress Centre, close to Museum Station at 140 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

SPEAKER: Commissioner Lorraine Buckingham, Salvation Army.

VISITOR: Mrs Aileen Mortensen - National President of ACW.

DONATION for LUNCHEON: \$10.00 - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL (02 4227 6919)

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Easter greetings have been received from NIGHAT GULZAR (1994 Scholar) and her husband Asif, in Lahore, Pakistan. Nighat asks for our prayers in that troublesome part of the world.

We were delighted to hear from RACHEL SOBANA KANLY, 1991 Scholar from Nagercoil, South India, telling us of progress of her baby daughter Keren now 5 months old and her son Brian 4½ years. Rachel's aunt is assisting with the children as Rachel has a very responsible position as Principal of the School of Nursing at the Salvation Army Hospital, Nagercoil. Her husband hopes to be returning from Kuwait where he is working on a 2-year contract, at the end of the year. Do keep Rachel in your prayers as she manages the affairs of the hospital as well as her family.

RACHEL McMANUS (1997 Scholar) is now living with her family in Wauchope, awaiting the Lord's direction for her life. She also asks for our prayers, and thanks us for our concern and support for her.

REV MARY AU (1980 Scholar) has sent greetings from her very busy parish in Hong Kong, with remembrance of her time with us at National Conference in Tasmania in 1993.

1998 Scholar, MILISE T'AIPALETI, is from Tonga and is studying at Melbourne College of Divinity where she obtained her Bachelor of Theology and is continuing for her Master's with the support of the scholarship. When she returns to Tonga she will work at the Wesleyan College of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. We hope she will come to NSW some time so we can meet her.

Min & Whybourne, WKS. Convener.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

In early January we were pleased to receive word that the FLC grant application by the NSW Ecumenical Council on behalf of the Somali Refugee Women's Sewing Group at Auburn had been successful and an amount of \$US 4,000 had been allocated.

This group has been helped by the Ecumenical Council since 1991; the grant will now enable a paid, part-time sewing teacher to be engaged to teach the practical skills of using electric sewing machines and making clothing and other household items for their families. This project is a most appropriate way of reaching out in friendship to extremely vulnerable members of our community who have suffered a great deal. The sewing group provides the women with a chance to encounter other women, to link in with some Australian women, to begin to practise their English in a supportive environment, as well as providing their pre-school children with the chance to play with other children, meet with other adults and also begin to use English.

The Ecumenical Council has shown their appreciation of this grant, and I quote their recent letter: "We would like you to know that the Fellowship of the Least Coin has our sincere appreciation and thanks for your trusting support of this valuable interaction of local Australian women with refugee women and their families as they engage in the tough experience of making a new start in a new country."

I know you will all support these ladies in your prayers, thanking God for the part we have been able to play through FLC.

Please don't forget to obtain a copy of the new Circle of Prayer - \$2.00 per copy or \$2.50 posted. If you would like a copy sent, phone me on (02) 9872.1719.

Shirley Wells, FLC Convener.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES TO NOTE:

From a recent ACW National Committee Financial Statement it is very good to note that just under \$34,000 has been sent from Australia to FLC International Committee, approx. one third of this having come from NSW. From World Community Day offertories, \$6731 has been allocated to Asian Church Women's Conference, and \$4500 to Bimbadeen College, which was our special project for 1997.

NOTES FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS:

At March Council it was a pleasure to meet Rev Cliff Letcher, President of Aborigines Inland Mission, and hear of this work. He told of its beginnings, the Presbyterian Church being one of the first churches to see the need to take the Christian message to aboriginal people. With interesting overheads, he traced its development to the present day, and showed us some of the folk who are serving with AIM, including Rev Rick and Kayleen Manton, who minister at Mt Druitt, and whom we will meet and hear on May 15th at our forthcoming State Conference.

At April Council, a most interesting book review was given by Life Member Joan Curtin. Written by Elder Andrew Wong, titled "A Burning Stick From The Fire", it is a telling account of his experiences as a Christian in China. Elder Wong's address is 45 Stafford Street, Artarmon 2064, and he will be pleased to send a copy, free of charge, to anyone who would like one.

PASTORAL CARE CONVENER: Our Membership Convener, Dss Heather Badgery has agreed to the addition of a Pastoral Care role being added to her responsibilities. Heather's address is 5 Amaroo Ave Strathfield 2135, Phone 9642.3254, and events such as a death, illness, accident, or happy things such as special awards need to be notified to her as soon as possible, so that she can contact members concerned.

CONGRATULATIONS - SUTHERLAND BRANCH:

Members of Sutherland Branch of ACW were delighted to know of the success of their fellow member Mrs Nancye Mitchell at the recent AUSSI Masters Swimming Championships held in Hobart. Nancye won 5 gold medals in the 75-79 age group (she was 75 on Anzac Day) in the 400, 200, 100 and 50 metre freestyle and the 50 metre backstroke.

In 1930, Nancye (who has been swimming competitively since she was 10) as a 16-year old won the National Junior Freestyle Championship in Hobart, and so nearly 60 years later, in the same city, she again swam as a champion. Nancye says her prowess in swimming is a "God-given gift."

Nancye is a very active parishioner of St Philip's Anglican Church, Caringbah, a member of The Mothers' Union, very involved with the Bush Church Aid Society Auxiliary as well as being the Parish BCA Box Secretary.

(Contributed by Mina Whybourne, ACW Sutherland)

N.S.W. ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

The 1998 Taize Pilgrimage of Trust will be continued this year. Last year I participated in the excellent Weekend Retreat at Turramurra, which was an opportunity for a rich Christian spiritual time. You might wish to participate at some of the following venues this year:

Various times in the City:

After Work - Tuesday, June 23, 6-7 pm at St James Church, 173 King Street, Sydney.

Breakfast Time - Friday, June 26, 7.30-8.30 am at St. Patrick's Church, Grosvenor Street, Sydney.

Lunch Time - Tuesday, June 30, 1-2 pm, at Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Evening - Wednesday, July 1, 7-10 pm at Christ Church St Laurence, George Street, Railway Square.

Evening Prayer - Wednesday, June 24, 7.30 pm at St Francis Xavier Church, McKenzie St. North Sydney.

- Thursday, June 25, 7.30 pm, at Uniting Church, Kiluna Rd & Avoca Dr. Kincumber.

- Sunday, June 28, 7.30 pm, in The Crypt, St Mary's Cathedral, College St. Sydney.

- Tuesday, June 30, at 7.30 pm at Mary Immaculate Church, 125 Barnier Dr. Quakers Hill.

Weekend Retreat - July 3rd-5th at Kerever Park, Bowral.

Quiet Day - Saturday, June 27, 10 am-4pm at Catholic Church, 23 Yardley Avenue, Waitara.

Gathering for Young Adults - Sunday, June 28, 11am-8.30 pm, St Mary's Cathedral School, College St. Sydney.

Marie McCann, ACW Representative to NSW Ecumenical Council.

ANOTHER NOTE from NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

We are hearing a great deal at present about the Year 2000, and various celebrations of 200-year anniversaries, e.g. Federation, but the Ecumenical Council has announced that a much more important event and anniversary is being thought about: "Christianity Celebrating Together Its Jubilee Year 2000!"

President of NSW Ecumenical Council, our own Joan Tong, has commented that we can expect to hear a great deal more about this in the months to come.

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FROM A C W NATIONAL NEWS:

"BAN THE LANDMINES" UPDATE....

124 nations - including Australia - have signed the Treaty banning the manufacture, sale, storage, transfer and use of landmines. However, many of the world's largest producers of landmines, including USA and China, have declined to sign the Treaty; also, the Treaty does not cover anti-government forces which make landmines for their own use. So the impact of the Treaty needs to be extended and it is hoped this will happen at the UN Conference on Disarmament.

In Australia, we can:

- ... congratulate our Government on signing this Treaty on our behalf;
- ... encourage our Government to continue funding de-mining training programs;
- ... urge our Government to support Australian research and development to improve techniques for de-mining programs;
- ... continue to pray for, and support, initiatives of our partner church agencies who are supporting people affected by landmines, e.g. in Cambodia and Mozambique.

LINK WITH THE KOKODA TRAIL:

Marianne Feiss, a Catholic Women's League member from The Oaks went to Papua New Guinea to retrace her late husband's trek on the Kokoda Trail, but was prevented by an injured leg and forced to recuperate in a small PNG village. This led to an extraordinarily interesting talk by Marianne to local CWL members, the Anglican Church and the View Club.

Marianne became aware of the villagers' desire to provide some education for their children. Motivated by the memory of the gratitude of her husband and his fellow Diggers to the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels" she decided to assist them. Enlisting the aid of QANTAS and coaxing donations of books, teaching aids and furniture from various sources on her return to Australia, she overcame enormous difficulties to provide the "nucleus of a school" for delivery to the village. She displayed photos of happy children enjoying learning, wearing T-shirts and schoolbags donated by a manufacturer from The Oaks. Her CWL Branch has offered future assistance if and when required.

(From The Flame, CWL News of Wollongong Region,
of which ACW member, Celia Cooper, is the Editor)

ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION.

Patrick Dodson, who chairs the Council For Reconciliation wrote in a recent article "Whatever our politics or philosophy, we've got to find the road to reconciliation as one of the most noble things that this country has sought to embark upon, without the cataclysmic type of events of Sarajevo or Africa or other nations. We can do this if it is in our hearts to achieve it."

The Church has a vital role to play in bringing about reconciliation between black and white Australians. The Salvation Army has recently published a Reconciliation Statement and other churches involved in the reconciliation initiative include Anglican, Catholic and Uniting churches.

(From Aboriginal Newsletter)

KOORI MINISTRY:

The Bush Church Aid Society of the Anglican Church has undertaken support of Rev Gloria and Mr Eddie Shipp for the next four years to help the Koori ministry in Western NSW. In Dubbo, where Gloria is the minister of St Luke's Koori Fellowship, there are 40,000 people, of whom over 7,000 are Koori people.

In 1984 Gloria committed her life to Christ, but it wasn't until she went to Nungalinga College in Darwin for bible and community training that she reconciled her Koori identity with Christianity. This was a catalyst for her calling to minister to the Koori people. Gloria says "My calling is to work for God. The vision I have is for Aborigines to be self-sufficient and have leaders in the church and community."

The Koori Fellowship meets in a small brick building. Inside is creative use of Aboriginal art, produced by Gloria's husband Eddie. Children and families mix well in the Service. Use of clapstick and didgeridoo alongside the Anglican Prayer Book provide a meeting of European and Aboriginal spirituality. They share a cuppa afterwards, but Gloria says that sometimes they start with a cuppa, in order to welcome and help people share their concerns which are later taken up in the prayers. "Reconciliation" says Gloria, "begins with Christ and leads us to sit down and listen to one another with respect. If people would take time to have a cuppa maybe they could overcome barriers and wor together."

(From BCA Magazine 'The Real Australian')

LETTER TO THE EDITOR in SYDNEY MORNING HERALD:

"At Cootamundra Intermediate High School in the 1940's I shared classrooms and playgrounds with girls from the Aboriginal Girls Training Home and except for some isolated instances, the girls appeared to be happy and took their places with other students. Students, and I believe most teachers, were oblivious to the fact that the girls had been "stolen."

The Home later became a facility for wayward girls under the Child Welfare Dept and it was a much less happy place.

Transferred from Child Welfare to the Dept of Aboriginal Affairs, the site on a hill overlooking Cootamundra is now a Bible & Discipleship College known as BIMBADEEN, conducted by the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. After a dozen years it has turned out some wonderful ambassadors who are devoting their lives to others in tribal and suburban communities.

In the 1940's journalists would travel from Sydney to "cover the story" if a girl "absconded" from the training home, but Bimbadeen's success has failed to attract the attention of the city-based media, which would rather report on a riot at Redfern. More than 50 years on, history is being repeated - good stories on Aborigines are seldom in demand." (Written to the Herald by a Cootamundra resident)

YOUNG AUSSIES WORK IN INDIA OVER CHRISTMAS:

A team of 16 young Aussies and Kiwis, with 4 leaders, went with Teens Missions International to carry out maintenance and building tasks at the Leprosy Mission's hospital at Salur in India.

During their 3 weeks there, they helped pour foundations for a new building, re-floored a staff cottage, helped re-roof the generator building and lime whitewashed the entire hospital! The outside work was hot, heavy and dirty, and the lime made the whitewashing hard on exposed skin. "Oh for a wheelbarrow or a long-handled shovel, let alone a concrete mixer" was a typical comment from the team members.

On their arrival after a 24-hour train and bus trip from Chennai (Madras) the young people were overwhelmed by the Indian Christian hospitality. The most important contacts

were not formally organised. As the team worked alongside Indian hospital staff and bricklayers there was lots of laughter - sometimes over misunderstandings caused by the language barrier, but more often from the natural interaction of happy and productive people.

(From The Leprosy Mission 'Action Update')

SOME SOBERING HEALTH FACTS:

A Young Media Australia (the national body of Children's Films & TV Council) media release suggests that parents should steer their children away from commercial TV programs if they want them to learn good eating habits. A project has shown that many children's programs have a high number of advertisements for sugary or fatty foods. "Children watching these shows are bombarded by high levels of food ads. Many ads promote as "cool" products with low nutritional values, usually high in fat, salt or sugar and low in fibre."

(From National Council of Women News)

FATHERS WHO SMOKE - THE FATAL LINK:

A British University research team has found that children of men who smoked 20 cigarettes a day were 30% more likely to develop cancer; 40 cigarettes a day doubled the risk to 60% higher than children of men who did not smoke. The most likely link is that smoking has been shown to damage sperm. The Cancer Foundation said the research emphasised the need for parents to stop smoking before, during and after they had children. About 500 Australian children under 14 are diagnosed with cancer or leukaemia each year. The research suggests there would be about 10% fewer cases if fathers stopped smoking.

(From The West Australian)

MUM'S SMOKING CAUSES COT DEATHS:

Maternal smoking is a cause of cot death among infants and significantly raised the risk of serious respiratory illnesses among children, says a British Government Report, which is the first British analysis of tobacco and disease for 10 years. It also spells out the risks of passive smoking. 80 out of 400 sudden infant death syndrome deaths in UK every year are due to maternal smoking. The risk of cot death for infants of smoking mothers was double that of non-smokers. The risk of childhood asthma was 28%-40% higher for children of a mother who smoked. The risk of middle ear disease was 20% to 50% higher if either parent smoked.

(From Sydney Daily Telegraph)